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5/6 NSC

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JFD - Review of events leading to Geneva
British Phase -

Had arranged w/ Eden in London talks
4/12 for UK participation in 10-nation talks
in Wash on "United action" in SEA. Mahin
instructed ^{on} Eden not to participate - just before
mtg called - so mtg fuzzed by bringing in
all 16 on Korea - w/ Brits there for that.

Eden subsequent explanation was he had
overlooked Colombo Conf & did not wish UK
participation ~~before~~ in SEA arrangement before
that Conf had come up w/ its answers -

Eden proposal 5/2 - Govt could not get
into any potentially belligerent posture prior
to Geneva - did not believe fall DDP wd
lead to fall of DC with the speed US evidently
believed likely - proposed secret bilateral
conversations ~~on preparations~~ examining
the situation & working out plan for

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action in particular ref to strengthening Siam

Dalles reply was that such talks & decisions
not rapid enough & likely to be overtaken by
events - "united action" will strengthen Siam

UK in between Asian commonwealth countries
& Australia & NZ - but Austr, acc to Casey, unable
to move before 7/29 elections; if Menzies wins
then can expect clear & forceful action - or at
least desire for it - which will have great
influence on UK position -

French Phase —

4/4 appeal for US CW strike to achieve
DBP - msg from Navarre 4/13? that
DBP fall in 48 hrs if US unable or unwilling
make carrier strike -

I explain to Fr many times US unable
to commit act of belligerency w/o Cong.
sanction which not forthcoming without
Pres. decision. Pres. decision

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on - 1 - Real indep. for VN, L & C
2 - US particip in tug VN tips
3 - US particip in mil planning in C
(assurance & not pull out as US moving in)
~~to~~ The govt now not responsible - can't
be dealt with - sharp division in country,
CofD & Cab on question of internationalizing
war in DC - fearful of "united action"
trying to into continuing to fight when it
wants out - The pol now w/o govt - being
run by Bidault pretty much in a free hand
bec govt unable to agree on what to tell
him - The Cab unaware at the time that
requests for US belligerent intervention had
been made. Bidault &aniel scared to
tell them -

Bid likely to squeak thru vote of conf.
but only because of abstentions - certainly
won't be true vote of confidence - govt
continuing merely on sufferance bec in
one knows what to replace it with.

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Until ^{sound} ~~good~~ + responsible govt in in 74. in pos.
to work with it on the minimum 3 conditions
of US participation - & w/o those 3 conditions
at least US participation is long approval
out of the question -

Ref. to new UK proposal rec'd 5/5(?)
which comes closer to US position - Pres
then entered - JH exit